

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

CHRISTINE MIRZAYAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM, WASHINGTON, D.C.—2009 SESSIONS

This Graduate Fellowship Program of the National Academies—consisting of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council—is designed to engage graduate science, engineering, medical, veterinary, business, public policy, and law students in the analytical process that informs the creation of national policy-making with a science/technology element. As a result, students develop basic skills essential to working in the world of science policy.

We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2009 sessions. The program will comprise two 12-week sessions:

Winter: January 12- April 3

Fall: September 9 through November 25

Graduate students and postdoctoral scholars and those who have completed graduate studies or postdoctoral research within the last 5 years are eligible to apply. Candidates should submit an application and request that a mentor/adviser fill out a reference form. Both forms are available on the Web at <http://national-academies.org/policyfellows>.

The deadline for receipt of application material is November 1 for the winter program and June 1 for the fall program. Candidates may apply to both sessions concurrently.

Additional details about the program and a link to join the mailing list are available on the Web site.

Questions should be directed to: policyfellows@nas.edu.

Below is a sampling of comments from alumni about the program's impact:

"This is an important career building opportunity for people interested in the scientific community outside academia. Even if you plan to pursue a traditional academic track, seeing science from a policy perspective is very enlightening. There is something valuable in this experience for first year grad students to recent PhD's. Come with an open mind and expect to learn more than you bargained for."

"This program will open your mind to a world rarely envisioned from the confines of laboratory bench work. I learned an immeasurable amount about the policy and politics behind science and after the fellowship opens your mind, it opens career doors."

"Just ten weeks in the S&T policy world in DC substantially broadened my perspective on how I can use my engineering background to positively impact our society. I return to graduate school recharged about the value of advanced education, and more confident about my decisions to pursue studies that blend the boundaries of engineering and the humanities. I feel like I have much new knowledge and understanding to share with my fellow graduate students as well as my professors. No matter what field of study you are pursuing, there is no reason not to apply for a policy fellowship. By seeing the connections between your academic field and the public policy arena, you will find many new opportunities for future studies or careers. You will be enriched as a person, as a public citizen, and as a member of an academic community."

"A really great experience for those from the "soft sciences" who have an interest in S&T policy or if you're trying to figure out what else you might want to do outside of academia. This was a great opportunity to bridge the gap and gain a new understanding and appreciation for how it all works, the people involved, and the profound difference it can make in the end (and all long the way)."